



Pros, cons of freeway are similar

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Opponents of the proposed South Mountain Freeway made their case at a recent Club West Homeowners Association meeting by reminding the audience that it isn't all that different from those backing the freeway.

"Some of us even drive," said Howard Shanker, an environmental law lawyer based in Tempe.

Shanker is representing the grass-roots Protecting Arizona's Children and Resources, a group formed to fight the \$1.7 billion freeway that would run along Pecos Road in Ahwatukee Foothills for 22 miles.

Birthday hoopla on hold

Most politicians probably can think of a better way to spend their birthdays than attending a homeowners association meeting.

But that's what Phoenix City Councilman Greg Stanton did this month when he spent the night of his 37th birthday briefing residents of Club West.

Sadly, no one in the audience offered Stanton a rousing rendition of *Happy Birthday* during the meeting.

Another out-of-control teen

There's a city employee who chuckles every time he sees Curt Schilling, who grew up in Phoenix, pitching for the Boston Red Sox.

In 1983, Deputy Director Tim Boling was a 22-year-old college student and playing catcher for the Valley Nonprofessional Summer Baseball League when a 16-year-old Schilling showed up one day wanting to hone his skills on the mound. Seems he was getting frustrated that his Shadow Mountain High baseball team wasn't pitching him.

"He threw hard but didn't have the control he has now," Boling said. "He'd throw the ball over my head. He'd throw it in the dirt. He was like 'Nuke' LaLoosh in *Bull Durham*."

A \$55 million 'scholarship'

Don Maxwell, new community and economic development director in Phoenix, hails from Virginia. And back in the day, he and David Wright's uncle would watch the younger Wright play baseball in high school. They used to say, "You know, he's pretty good. Maybe some day he'll get a college scholarship." Turns out he really was "pretty good." Wright was a first-round pick for the New York Mets in 2001 and signed a \$55 million, six-year contract extension with the team last year.

Stepping up

Mayor Phil Gordon's senior assistant, George Weisz, got a new championship ring.

Weisz, co-owner of the Missoula Osprey, a Diamondbacks minor league team, received the ring for the Osprey's 2006 Pioneer League championship.

The rings were presented to owners and players at the spring training complex in Tucson this week, but Weisz couldn't make the ceremony. He was called in at the last minute to garner support at the Legislature for a bill proposing tougher laws against pimps and johns involved in child prostitution, a bill championed by Gordon and Councilwoman Peggy Bilsten.

Weisz's will be a different kind of ceremony on May 10. That's when the Anti-Defamation League will honor him with its Community Partnership Award for always "stepping up to the plate" during 30 years of public service and community involvement.

- Compiled by Kerry Fehr-Snyder and Monica Alonzo-Dunsmoor